



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PANEL

9.30am to 11.35am

23 January 2013

Present: Councillors Bremner (chair), Carlo (vice chair), Driver, Grahame, Grenville, Lubbock, Sands (M)) and Stammers

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2013.

2. RECYCLING UPDATE

(The chair agreed to move this item forward on the agenda.)

The environmental services manager presented the report and answered members' questions on the report. The executive head of strategy, people and democracy and the head of citywide services also attended for this item and answered questions.

During discussion members generally welcomed the report and sought clarification that where there was a mobile population, such as students, visits to encourage recycling would continue. The environmental services manager answered members' questions and advised the panel that the council had sufficient green boxes (used for glass recycling) to supply residents until the new waste recycling contract came into force. Information leaflets on recycling could be translated if required. Members noted the importance of education on recycling and that children encouraged their families to participate in it, and that officers provided advice on what should go in each bin to residents at their homes.

Councillor Driver, as cabinet member for environment and neighbourhoods, commented on the report and said that the cabinet was proposing to reduce the percentage targets for the percentage of domestic waste sent for re-use, recycling or composting set in the corporate plan. Other councils that achieved higher rates of recycling provided caddy liners for food waste and combined recycling materials in one container and recycle a wider range of materials. Members expressed concern that the panel had not been consulted on this proposal, which had first been discussed at the scrutiny committee on 10 January 2013 and there was no reference to it in the report to this panel. The executive head of strategy, people and democracy explained that service plans were reviewed as part of the annual budget setting process. The business plan for citywide services had proposed that the recycling rates be amended as the current targets were not realistic and would be costly to attempt to achieve. The re-let of the contract, which would enable the

collection of comingled materials and provision of liners for food caddies was necessary to increase recycling rates. The unsuccessful bid to the weekly collection support scheme meant that other options to increase participation in food waste would need to be considered. The county council's change in criteria with regard to street sweepings had also affected the recycling rate.

Discussion ensued in which members considered that in future years the panel should monitor recycling performance issues, be consulted on proposals to amend the performance targets and be given the opportunity to influence improvements to the service. A member suggested that there needed to be a mechanism in the setting of recycling targets to reflect a reduction in overall waste. During discussion a member suggested that there was a contradiction in increasing food waste recycling and the need to reduce food waste in general. Domestic food waste was just part of the problem with supermarkets and food retailers being responsible for a lot of unnecessary waste.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) ask the head of citywide services to report on recycling and waste management performance on a quarterly basis so that the panel can monitor performance.

3. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (DPD) – SUBMISSION

The head of planning services presented the report and referred to the supplementary reports containing a revised version of DM21 and a document containing "errata" which were straightforward amendments which had been circulated for information. A sustainability appraisal would be circulated to members when it was available.

Discussion ensued on DM21 in which the head of planning referred to a recent trend for people to shop locally at convenience stores, to supplement internet of out of town supermarket shopping. These stores reinforced the role of local centres and, as one member commented, increased footfall to other retail outlets. Members also noted that the policy protected the proportion of A1 use in district and local centres. There had been a number of objections in relation to the threshold for A1 use. It was also noted that there was a separate policy for takeaway food outlets.

In response to a question, the planning policy team leader explained that the Joint Core Strategy required new homes to have a 10% of energy from renewable low carbon sources. It was expected that building regulations would incorporate this and drive up standards nationally.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report and relevant supporting information including:
 - (a) a summary schedule of representations made to the pre-submission version of the plan where no change is proposed and the reasons for not proposing any change (Annex 1);
 - (b) a summary schedule of representations made to the pre-submission version of the plan where minor changes are proposed, and the justification for those changes (Annex 2);
 - (c) the proposed submission version of the plan comprising plan text and appendices incorporating the minor changes set out in (b) (Annex 3);
- (2) endorse the approach that is proposed for cabinet to recommend to council that it:
 - (a) that the proposed Regulation 22 submission version of the Development Management Policies DPD (subject to the minor changes for clarification set out in Annex 2, and the further recommended change to policy DM21) is considered to be legally compliant and sound;
 - (b) that the Development Management Policies DPD (as amended), alongside its evidence base, is authorised for formal submission under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Plans) Regulations 2012;
 - (c) to delegate authority to the deputy chief executive (operations) in consultation with the cabinet member for environment and development to approve the detail of technical documents and supporting evidence required to be submitted alongside the Development Management Policies DPD for consideration at examination and to give evidence in support of the plan at examination.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT 2012-13

(The chair agreed to take this as an urgent item.)

(Councillor Bremner declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as a governor of Mile Cross Primary School.)

The environmental strategy officer presented the report.

Discussion ensued in which members considered the environmental statement 2012-2013 and the environmental strategy officer, together with the head of planning

services, answered questions. Information relating to other service areas would need to be reported back to the panel.

During discussion members welcomed the voltage reduction trial and considered that this should be an exemplar for domestic use; the review of the fleet of pool cars and the use of bicycles for work. A member suggested that the council's policies which contributed to environmental objectives should be included in the environmental statement in future years, eg, DM3 which encourages biodiversity by requesting developers to install bird boxes etc.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) ask the environmental strategy officer to provide members with further information in relation to:
 - (a) how the council achieves its corporate social responsibilities and assesses that of its contractors;
 - (b) the feasibility of providing a green energy supplier option as part of the switch and save initiatives;
 - (c) how much schools were charged for food waste collection and how could other schools be encouraged to participate to increase recycling;
 - (d) air quality and CO² reduction in the Norwich area and how this relates to the wider Norwich Area Transportation strategy;
 - (e) the Norwich urban grid.

CHAIR